

Hause Store
North side of State Route 401 (Conestoga Pike),
at junction with Mansion Road
Marsh (East Nantmeal Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1205

HABS,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1205

HAUSE STORE

Location: North side of State Route 401 (Conestoga Pike), at junction with Mansion Road, Marsh (East Nantmeal Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owners: Dorris C. Beckley and Elizabeth H. Leidy, P.O. Box 215, Elverson, Pennsylvania.

Present Use: Vacant.

Statement of Significance: This early 19th century store, owned and managed by one family for over 100 years, is basically unchanged, except for rear and side extensions. It has been closed since 1929.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Circa 1815.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The property has been transferred as follows: Barbara Winings to John Jones in 1813; the executors of John Jones, Jonathan and George W. Jones, to Jacob Hause in 1818; Jacob Hause by will to his son Jesse Hause in 1862; Jesse Hause by will to his son Harry H. Hause in 1894; Harry Hause by will to his son Francis A. Hause in 1952; Francis Hause by will to his widow Frances K. Hause; and she by deed to John O. Platt, Jr. in 1958; Theodore S. A. Rubino (Sheriff) to Dorris C. Beckley and Elizabeth H. Leidy in 1965.
4. Original plan and construction: The original building of stone is little changed, except by extensions to the north (rear) and east.
5. Alterations and additions: The store was lengthened by a 16' addition to the north (rear) in 1879; and in 1900 the width was extended by a 13'-4" addition to the east.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

This country store was in the hands of one family from 1818 to about 1929 when it was closed. Account books of the store for over 100 years are in the Chester County Historical Society,

West Chester, Pennsylvania.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: Two interior views, circa 1905, are in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Both taken by O. Bull. They are included in this report.

2. Bibliography:

Clipping and manuscript files in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania under the headings: "East Nantmeal Township: Business Houses--Hause Store and Lands."

Wills and deeds in the Chester County Court House, West Chester, Pennsylvania.

D. Supplemental Material:

1. Chester and Delaware Federalist, West Chester, Pennsylvania, October 29, 1817:

"PUBLIC NOTICE.

"Pursuant to the last will and testament of John Jones, late of East Nantmeal township, Chester county, deceased, will be exposed to public sale on the premises, on Thursday the 18th day of November next, the Plantation on which the said deceased lived, situate to the township aforesaid, (being part of old Reading forge tract) adjoining lands of Thomas Bull, Jacob Shrisman and others, Containing about one hundred and forty acres, the improvements are a spacious new store, dwelling house well finished, a large and convenient stone barn, with a stable under the same, smoke house, spring house, and hog house, all of stone and in good order. One log tenement, a thriving young orchard, there are on the premises about forty acres well covered with excellent timber, and a proportion of meadow, the remainder arable--of a strong soil, divided into fields, with post and rail fences, nearly all well watered.

"Also--One other tract adjoining the above, containing about fifty acres. The improvements are a good stone House and Barn, stone store house, in a handsome situation for business on the little Conestogo turnpike--there are on the premises twenty acres of timber, and a proportion of meadow--the remainder arable--of a good quality, divided into small fields with good fences. The above tracts will be sold separated or in one, so as to suit purchasers. For

further particulars enquire of the executors living on the premises.

Jona. Jones,
Geo. W. Jones,
Executors.

October 15.

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2. Daily Local News, West Chester, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1879:

"Enlarging his store. - Jesse Hause, Esq., of the Marsh, this county, is preparing to enlarge his store at that place. He will add about sixteen feet to its length, and fix it up otherwise in good style."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This country store, of stucco over stone, is situated at a crossroad and retains much of its original appearance. Although the interior is not in good condition, it remains as it was when a store.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The store is 30'-2" (three-bay front) x 45'-3" with a 16' addition to the north and a 13'-4" (one bay) addition to the east. It is one-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: White stucco over random rubble.
4. Porches: Across the south front of the store is three-bay, one-story porch with a standing seam, tin, shed roof supported by square chamfered columns. Supporting the wooden floor of the porch is a stone retaining wall. On the east elevation is a one-bay porch with a shed roof. It was enclosed circa 1960.
5. Chimneys: One brick, central chimney.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The door on the south facade is divided into two parts. Above the lock rail is a

six-light window; below it are three panels. Behind the front door there is another door, having a continuous pattern of nail studs divided by horizontal lines of wire.

- b. Windows and shutters: All the windows are six-over-six, double-hung, wooden sash with protective coverings of metal strips. Vertical board shutters on first floor appear to have their original hardware.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Low-pitched gable roof with long slope over the east addition. Roof has modern tin covering. Original wooden shingles are exposed in the ceiling of the attic.
- b. Cornice and eaves: Wooden box cornice.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: One large room with floor-to-ceiling shelves on east and west walls.
- b. Attic: One large loft.

2. Stairways: One, leading to attic. It appears to be original.

3. Flooring: Random width boards covered with linoleum.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls. Ceiling on first floor is pressed tin with a floral design.

5. Special decorative features, trim, cabinet work: Three cast iron columns with floral capitals show the division between the original building and the east addition. A wooden post office is built in on the east wall.

6. Mechanical equipment:

- a. Heating: None now, but 1905 photograph shows the store was heated by a cast iron wood stove.
- b. Lighting: Modern electricity. Gas shown in 1905 photograph.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Store faces south on the old Conestoga Road. To the east there is a large stone house and various outbuildings.
2. Landscaping: There is a lawn around the store on three sides and a driveway on the other.
3. Outbuildings: Smokehouse: Located to the east of the store and house is a smokehouse built of logs and boards on a stone foundation. The door to the structure, made of rough, vertical boards, retains its original iron strap hinges. A stone chimney remains. Wooden shingles on the roof are now covered with modern asbestos. The interior of the smokehouse is one big room with a fire pit in the dirt floor and hooks hanging from the rafters. This building shows clearly the way in which a 19th century log and board building was constructed. A wooden privy and a barn also stand on the property.

Prepared by Bart Anderson
Curator
Chester County Historical
Society
May 1959
and
Marion Morton
November 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a cooperative survey of 100 Chester County buildings conducted by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Chester County Historical Society between 1958 and 1962. This was the first large-scale project undertaken after the reinstitution of HABS in 1957, and it established the pattern of cooperation with state and local preservation groups which has characterized the HABS program in recent years. Written data was prepared by Bart Anderson, Curator of the Chester County Historical Society with the assistance of Jim Sorber and others. HABS hired local professional photographer Ned Goode to take the documentary photographs. The written material was edited and expanded in 1975 by Marion Morton working under contract with HABS.